

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 – 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (new): A method for the thermal disinfection of the surface of an article comprising a composition containing:

- a) at least one 1- or 2-(C₃- to C₂₄-alkyl)glycerol ethers; and
- b) at least one aromatic alcohol.

Claim 24 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition is in the form of an aqueous solution.

Claim 25 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition is anhydrous.

Claim 26 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said disinfection occurs at a temperature equal to or greater than about 25°C.

Claim 27 (new): The method according to Claim 26, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 30°C.

Claim 28 (new): The method according to Claim 27, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 35°C.

Claim 29 (new): The method according to Claim 28, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 40°C.

Claim 30 (new): The method according to Claim 29, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 40 to about 80°C.

Claim 31 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 60°C.

Claim 32 (new): The method according to Claim 31, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 55°C.

Claim 33 (new): The method according to Claim 32, wherein said temperature is about 50°C.

Claim 34 (new): The method according to Claim 26, wherein said temperature is up to about 170°C.

Claim 35 (new): The method according to Claim 32, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 80 to about 160°C.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to Claim 35, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 100 to about 150°C.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to Claim 36, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 120 to about 140°C.

Claim 38 (new): The method according to Claim 37, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 130 to about 135°C.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said surface is wetted, sprayed, rubbed, wiped or moistened with the composition.

Claim 40 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said surface is dipped into the composition.

Claim 41 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said surface is disinfected by atomizing the composition.

Claim 42 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said surface comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) metal;
- b) glass;

- c) wood;
- d) plastic;
- e) textile; and
- f) ceramic.

Claim 43 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said article is at least one device selected from the group consisting of:

- a) medical instrument;
- b) laboratory apparatus;
- c) thermolabile materials; and
- d) thermostable materials.

Claim 44 (new): The method according to Claim 43, wherein said article is at least one device selected from the group consisting of:

- a) bottle;
- b) air-conditioning system;
- c) membrane;
- d) ion exchanger;
- e) cooling water circulation; and
- f) endoscope.

Claim 45 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said disinfection occurs for a range of from about 10 seconds to about 1 hour.

Claim 46 (new): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said range is from about 1 minute to about 30 minutes.

Claim 47 (new): The method according to Claim 43, wherein said range is from about 5 to about 15 minutes.

Claim 48 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said glycerol ether comprises a range of from about 5 to about 20% by weight of the total composition.

Claim 49 (new): The method according to Claim 48, wherein said weight is about 10%.

Claim 50 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said aromatic alcohol comprises a range of from about 70 to about 95% by weight of the total composition.

Claim 51 (new): The method according to Claim 50, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 80 to about 90%.

Claim 52 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition comprises:

- a) from about 0.01 to about 1.0% of glycerol ether by weight; and
- b) from about 0.1 to about 10% of aromatic alcohol by weight.

Claim 53 (new): The method according to Claim 52, wherein said composition comprises:

- a) from about 0.025 to about 0.5% of glycerol ether by weight; and
- b) from about 0.25 to about 5% of aromatic alcohol by weight.

Claim 54 (new): The method according to Claim 53, wherein said composition comprises:

- a) from about 0.05 to about 0.2% of glycerol ether by weight; and
- b) from about 0.5 to about 2% of aromatic alcohol by weight.

Claim 55 (new): The method according to Claim 54, wherein said glycerol ether comprises about 0.1 % by weight of the total composition.

Claim 56 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises:

- a) about 89% of water by weight.

Claim 57 (new): The method according to Claim 56, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 94.5 to about 99.725%.

Claim 58 (new): The method according to Claim 57, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 97.8 to about 99.45%.

Claim 59 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises:

- c) salt.

Claim 60 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein the pH of said composition is in the range of from about 3 to about 10.

Claim 61 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said glycerol ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) branched saturated alkyl; and
- b) unbranched saturated alkyl.

Claim 62 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein the 1- or 2-alkylglycerol ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) dodecylglycerol ether;
- b) decylglycerol ether;
- c) octylglycerol ether;
- d) propylglycerol ether;
- e) octadecylglycerol ether;
- f) hexadecylglycerol ether;
- g) octadecenylglycerol ether; and
- h) 1-(2-ethylhexyl)glycerol ether.

Claim 63 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said aromatic alcohol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) aryloxyalkanols;
- b) oligoalkanols aryl ethers; and

- c) arylalkanols.

Claim 64 (new): The method according to Claim 63, wherein said aryloxyalkanol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) phenoxyethanol; and
- b) phenoxypropanol.

Claim 65 (new): The method according to Claim 63, wherein said arylalkanol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 3-phenyl-1-propanol;
- b) phenethyl alcohol;
- c) veratryl alcohol;
- d) benzyl alcohol; and
- e) 2-methyl-1-phenyl-2-propanol.

Claim 66 (new): The method according to Claim 63, wherein said oligoalkanol aryl ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) phenoxy-di-, tri- and -oligoethanol; and
- b) phenoxy-di-, tri- and -oligopropanol.

Claim 67 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition comprises:

- a) from about 0.05 to about 0.2% of 1-(2-ethylhexyl)glycerol ether by weight; and
- b) from about 0.5 to about 2% of phenoxyethanol by weight.

Claim 68 (new): The method according to Claim 67, wherein said composition further comprises:

- c) from about 0.5 to about 2% of phenoxypropanol by weight.

Claim 69 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises at least one auxiliary.

Claim 70 (new): The method according to Claim 69, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one agent selected from the group consisting of:

- a) aldehydes;
- b) amines;
- c) phenols;
- d) halogen compounds;
- e) carboxylic acids;
- f) wetting agents;
- g) cleaning components;
- h) corrosion inhibitors;
- i) nonionic surfactants;
- j) anionic surfactants;
- k) amphoteric surfactants;
- l) buffers;
- m) acids;
- n) alkalizing agents;
- o) perfumes;
- p) dyes;
- q) salts;
- r) indicators;
- r) markers;
- s) complexing agents; and
- t) antifoams.

Claim 71 (new): The method according to Claim 69, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) sodium chloride;
- b) o-phenylphenol;
- c) triclosan;
- d) o-phthaldialdehyde;
- e) Lonzabac 12;

- f) Lonzabac LF; and
- g) sodium benzoate.

Claim 72 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said composition disinfects at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) bacteria;
- b) yeasts and moulds;
- c) mycobacteria;
- d) viruses;
- e) propionibacteria (*Propionibacterium acnes*);
- f) dandruff-causing microbes (*Malassezia furfur*);
- g) prions;
- h) odour-causing microorganisms;
- i) lower harmful organisms;
- j) protozoa;
- k) pores; and
- l) fungi.

Claim 73 (new): A process for the thermal disinfection of an article comprising the steps of:

- i) cleaning said article at with a neutral cleaner;
- ii) thermochemical disinfection of said article with a composition comprising at least one 1- or 2-(C₃- to C₂₄-alkyl)glycerol ethers and at least one aromatic alcohol;
- iii) rinsing said article with cold water; and
- iv) drying said article.

Claim 74 (new): The process according to Claim 73, wherein said process further comprises the step of precleaning said article with cold water before step i).

Claim 75 (new): The process according to Claim 73, wherein the operating temperature of said cleaning occurs in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

Claim 76 (new): The process according to Claim 73, wherein the operating temperature of said cleaning occurs at about 93°C.

Claim 77 (new): The process according to Claim 73, wherein said thermal disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

Claim 78 (new): The process according to Claim 73, wherein said thermal disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 90 to about 100°C.

Claim 79 (new): The process according to Claim 78, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 90 to about 95°C.

Claim 80 (new): The process according to Claim 73, wherein said drying occurs at an operating temperature of from about 40 to about 60°C.

Claim 81 (new): The process according to Claim 73, wherein said thermal disinfection occurs at an operating time of from about 1 to about 20 minutes.